

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SSM-05 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-13 EUR-12

DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 SCCT-01 ACDA-10 MC-02 EB-07 CIEP-02 TRSE-00

STR-04 CEA-01 COME-00 INT-05 OES-06 FEAE-00 /140 W

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R 041053Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5494

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 5374

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SAUDI EDITORIAL REVIEW (JULY 28 - AUGUST 3)

SUMMARY: PRINCIPAL STRAIGHT NEWS STORIES JULY 28 - AUGUST 3:
LEBANON, SYRIAN CABINET CHANGES, VIKING/MARS MISSION, AND SAUDI
GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON TEL AL-ZAATAR CONDITIONS (FOR LATTER, SE
JIDDA 5280). (8/3 UKA'AZ DAILY ALSO CARRIED FULL INSIDE PAGE ON
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ISSUES BEFORE UN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, NO EDITORIAL COMMENT).

U.S.-RELATED EDITORIALS: U.S. CONTACTS WITH PLO, ATTACK ON KISSINGER MIDDLE EAST POLICY, SAUDI ARMS PURCHASES, OPEC OIL PRICES, SAUDI ASSISTANCE TO ARAB WORLD, AND VIKING MISSION.

END SUMMARY.

1. U.S. CONTACTS WITH PLO

JULY 31 AR-RIYADH DAILY NOTING THAT EVEN THOUGH THESE CONTACTS (RELATED TO AMERICAN EVACUATION FROM BEIRUT) "DO NOT MEAN A DRAMATIC SHIFT IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT", THEY ARE NEVERTHELESS "SIGNIFICANT" AND THE PLO SHOULD "EXPLOIT THEM... TO ESTABLISH A BASE FROM WHICH U.S./PALESTINIAN RELATIONS CAN DEVELOP".

2. KISSINGER

SAMIR NADA IN TWO ARTICLES 7/29 IQRA'A WEEKLY ATTACKS KISSINGER AS "PRO-ZIONIST" AND SAYS IN ONE ARTICLE HIS POLICY OF DETENTE WILL BE PROVEN "VULNERABLE" NOW THAT "IMMINENT CONFLICT" IS POSSIBLE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN WITH "U.S., RUSSIAN AND FRENCH FLEETS RUSHING" INTO THE AREA. IN SECOND PIECE ON PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON, NADA CRITICIZES THOSE ARAB STATES WHICH APPROVED OF KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TOWARD MIDDLE EAST PEACE SINCE WRITER BELIEVES "HIS PROMISES (TO THE ARABS) WILL NOT BE KEPT".

3. SAUDI ARMS PURCHASES

COMMENTING ON MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE SULTAN'S INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE STATED KINGDOM SHOULD PURCHASE ARMS FROM A VARIETY OF COUNTRIES, 8/3 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARAB NEWS BELIEVES THIS POLICY "WOULD HELP SAUDI ARABIA AVOID BECOMING OVERLY DEPENDENT ON ONE COUNTRY FOR ITS ENTIRE REQUIREMENTS....A WISE THING TO DO".

4. OIL PRICES

REFERRING TO RECENT PROFIT/LOSS STATEMENTS BY MAJOR U.S. OIL UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPANIES WHICH SHOWED PROFITS UP TO "93 PERCENT", 7/28 AL-MADINA DAILY SAYS THIS "CLEARLY INDICATED THAT ARAB OIL PRICES ARE STILL TOO LOW".

5. SAUDI ASSISTANCE TO ARAB/MUSLIM WORLD

FOLLOWING UP ON RECENTLY-PUBLISHED INTERVIEW WITH MINISTER

OF PLANNING, HISHAM NAZIR, IN WHICH NAZIR DISCUSSED SECOND FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN, MOHAMMED SALAH AD-DIIN IN 7/29 AL-MADINA DAILY CLAIMED THAT LATE KING FAISAL SUSPENDED ALL INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR THREE YEARS TO ENABLE KINGDOM TO "FULFILL ITS COMMITMENTS TO THE CONFRONTATION STATES" (EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN): "IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT SUCH A COMMITMENT IN THE FACE OF OTHER CHALLENGES IS RATHER EXPENSIVE AND HAZARDOUS.... THE BLOOD OF THE MARTYRED KING WAS PART OF THE PRICE FOR THIS COMMITMENT."

6. VIKING MISSION

THE POSSIBILITY OF LIFE ON MARS LED 8/3 AR-RIYADH DAILY TO COMMENT, "WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO NEW HOPE FOR A NEW LIFE (ON EARTH), THAT MIGHT BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THIS MOMENTOUS SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT, WHERE HATRED, VENDETTAS AND PAIN WILL HAVE NO PLACE".

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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